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CAPT. ROBERT A. BARTLETT

CHILDREN AND DOGS ARE TWIN PRIDES OF THE ESKIMO HOUSEHOLD

Furry puppies make fine playthings for Greenland toddlers. The mother dog seems not to mind sharing its offspring. Matching the softness of the pets, the boy's fur cap comes from the pelt of a baby seal. Greenlanders (easternmost of the world's Eskimos, Bulletin No. 2) seldom live in the snow houses widely regarded as typical of the Northlands. Hides, stone, driftwood, and even finished lumber are building materials.

Bulletin No. 1, May 8, 1950

Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake

THE Baltic Sea—where an American plane disappeared recently to set off a series of charges and countercharges between nations—is an international lake for most of northern Europe. The peninsula and islands of Denmark almost completely close it off from the open North Sea.

Called "the Mediterranean of the North," the Baltic has a shore line more than 3,000 miles long. Before World War II, it was shared by nine countries. They were Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Soviet Russia, Poland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The last three now are incorporated within the Soviet Union.

Germany Expanded Holdings

The search for the downed flyers centered chiefly around the Danish island of Bornholm in an area rimmed by Denmark, Sweden, and the German-Polish coast. The broad expanse off Lepaya (Libau)—the Latvian port where the American-Soviet incident was first reported by the Russians—forms the heart of the Baltic, between Swedish and Russian territory.

Like the Mediterranean, the Baltic has seen many periods of stress under changing European relations. When Germany was extending its power and holdings in this region before World War II, Baltic routes and ports were often in the news.

In 1936, the Germans defied the Versailles Treaty by resuming control over the Kiel Canal (Kieler Kanal). This waterway cuts through the base of Jutland Peninsula and connects the North and Baltic seas. When built, it gave Germany a "private entrance" into the Baltic, separate from the narrow natural channels of the Skagerrak and Kattegat. The Versailles Treaty, ending World War I, declared the Kiel Canal an open international waterway.

Another Versailles provision was scrapped in the spring of 1939, when Germany occupied Memel (Klaipeda), Lithuania's only sea outlet. And still another was wiped out, on the day war broke, when the Baltic port and free territory of Danzig, an outstanding issue in the long Polish-German conflict, went back to Germany.

Dangerous for Navigators

During the war, early German conquests turned the Baltic—except for neutral Sweden—into an Axis lake. By 1942, the whole southern coast, to the suburbs of Leningrad (plus Finland), was German controlled. Today, the German shore has been reduced to only about 500 miles of British- and Soviet-occupied territory.

The sea itself is considered fairly hazardous for navigation because of shifting winds and sudden, violent storms; as well as for its coastal shoals in the south and the rugged shores in the north.

The Baltic Sea is less salty than most large ocean arms. This is because it is relatively shallow over most of its area. Also, fresh waters pour

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CAPT. ROBERT A. BARTLETT FROM GENDREAU

SKILLED HANDS KEEP KAYAKS UPRIGHT AT ANGMAGSSALIK, GREENLAND

Sealskins stretched over a light wooden framework make swift hunting vessels for Eskimo men. The paddlers fasten themselves to their craft; the best ones can spin head-down into the water, then right themselves by a deft, strong sweep of the paddle. Angmagssalik is one of the two main settlements on the east coast of Greenland (Bulletin No. 2).

Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel

BLUIE West-One, United States Air Force base hemmed in by southern Greenland's icy mountains, grew like wildfire in wartime. It is still growing. Now under construction at "Bluie" is a 60-guest hotel—the first ever built on the world's largest island, according to an official Danish source.

You would hardly recognize the big base today, current visitors tell comrades who left Bluie by 1946. There is no change in the "Groanland" sky line of mile-high crags. The hotel doesn't dwarf the hangars or the military hospital. But white paint on the barracks contributes to the new look. So do wives and children strolling the base. So do the school and school bus, and the clothesline laden with Monday wash.

Spreads Across Glacial Delta

BW-1, to use Bluie's wartime code designation, spreads its airstrip, taxi-ways, and buildings over most of the broad glacial delta on the site of the native village of Narsarssuak (illustration, next page). It lies at the head of Tunugdliarfik Fjord 38 miles northeast of Julianehaab and 110 miles northwest of Kap Farvel (Cape Farewell), Greenland's southern tip.

Bluie and Crystal were the names of two chains of Air Force bases that combined weather-study, communications, and rescue functions over the length and breadth of Greenland and near-by Canada. The two chain names were familiar to military personnel in wartime. Not until late 1948, however, when Bluie West-One functioned dramatically as rescue base for flyers stranded on the icecap, did the name Bluie come to the attention of the American public.

Narsarssuak was the name used in the limited wartime references to BW-1. The base became a vital fueling stop for twin-engined aircraft flown over the northern route from the United States and Canada to the United Kingdom. It was a busy ferry point for four-engined bombers, first going east to Europe and later returning to the United States.

Greenland is Denmark's only colonial possession. Besides BW-1, only BW-8 continues in year-around U. S. Air Force operation under the defense agreement with Denmark. BW-8 lies at the head of narrow, 100-mile-long Sondre Stromfjord on Greenland's west coast. It is 440 miles northwest of BW-1 and 32 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Colder than BW-1, it records occasional winter temperatures of 50 degrees below zero and gales up to 150 miles an hour.

Relics of Eric the Red

Few attempt to explain the origin of the Bluie name. One version is that the base at Narsarssuak reminded one of its founders of days at a lonely World War I replacement center at Blois, France—Bluie to doughboys. Perhaps it should be Blowie, in deference to the gales.

Remnants of stone huts across the fjord from BW-1 are said to have formed a settlement of Eric the Red, father of the more famous Leif Ericson. Eric explored Greenland in A.D. 982.

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into it from numerous rivers. The Baltic's outflow into the open North Sea is hampered by the narrowness of the passages. In consequence, large coastal areas of the Baltic are frozen over in winter, especially in the north and northwest (illustration, below).

In earlier times, when the salinity may have been even lower, and the weather more severe, it was possible to cross on the ice from Scandinavia to the European mainland. Under Sweden's Charles X, in 1659, 20,000 men marched over the frozen straits between Sweden and Denmark.

NOTE: The Baltic Sea is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Europe and the Near East. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "2,000 Miles Through Europe's Oldest Kingdom," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1949; "Norway Cracks Her Mountain Shell," June, 1948; "Bornholm—Denmark in a Nutshell," February, 1945*; "Rural Sweden Through American Eyes," June, 1940; "On Danish By-Lanes," January, 1940; "Life's Flavor on a Swedish Farm," September, 1939; "Country Life in Norway," April, 1939; "Estonia: Russia's Baltic Gate," December, 1939; "Flying Around the Baltic," June, 1938; "Royal Copenhagen, Capital of a Farming Kingdom," February, 1932; "Norway, A Land of Stern Reality," July, 1930; "Sweden, Land of White Birch and White Coal," October, 1928; and "Latvia, Home of the Letts," October, 1924. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00; issues unmarked are available at 50¢ a copy.*)

JERRY WALLER

IN WINTER, SLEIGHS INSTEAD OF SHIPS CARRY FINNS FROM ISLAND TO BALTIC ISLAND

The Turku archipelago, off southwest Finland, scatters a myriad islands far out into the Baltic Sea. Ordinarily, riding across "in a one-horse open sleigh" is no fun because of bad weather.

Bulletin No. 3, May 8, 1950

New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored

CASTLE CLINTON, clinging to the tip of Manhattan Island, is soon to be restored as a "shrine of each patriot's devotion." The old fort, more recently the city's Aquarium, will need drastic renovation.

All that now stands of the historic landmark is a grim and battered oval wall of red sandstone. Its drab unsightliness matches that of surrounding mud and rubble. New York's famous Battery Park, in which it rises, is being extensively altered in the landscaping of the Manhattan approach to the new Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel under the East River.

Overlooks Statue of Liberty

Castle Clinton's walls are eight feet thick. The structure was built from 1807 to 1811 as part of the city's inner-harbor defenses against a possible British attack. Efforts of New Yorkers to preserve the fortification gained Federal support last October, in the nick of time.

Congressional action restoring Castle Clinton makes it the second National Monument in the New York City area. From its 18 gun emplacements, tourists, by late 1951, will gaze southwestward across the harbor to the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island. That gift of France to the American people has been a National Monument since 1924.

The War of 1812 fort has had a succession of names—West Battery, Fort Clinton, Castle Clinton, Castle Garden, the Aquarium. The tradition-cherishing Americans who fought through the 1940's for the fort's preservation called it "the city's most significant landmark." They based their plea on the romantic story of the old fort through four distinct stages of its existence.

The West Battery was the fort's name as it rose from the Capske, a cluster of offshore rocks since joined to Battery Park by land fills. It teamed with Castle William, similar fort still standing on Governors Island a short distance to the south, to protect New York in 1814 from the fate that Washington, the young republic's capital, met at British hands that year.

Shifted from Defense to Entertainment

In 1815, the West Battery became Castle Clinton in honor of DeWitt Clinton, mayor of New York at that time. The word castle then, perhaps more than now, was a synonym for fort.

No longer needed for military purposes after New York's defenses were moved to the outer harbor, Castle Clinton was turned over to the city in 1822. Soon after this transfer it began three golden decades as Castle Garden, resplendent restaurant and entertainment center.

Throngs, sometimes numbering as many as 10,000, attended spectacles in the awning-roofed oval. In 1825 it became the first public building to be lighted by gas.

General Lafayette was welcomed there in 1824. All the presidents from Andrew Jackson to Franklin Pierce were feted in Castle Garden. It was perhaps Jenny Lind who gave the landmark its greatest and most

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Six-sevenths of Greenland's 840,000 square miles is ice-capped, only a coastal fringe being clear. Glaciers push down valleys to the sea and break off, forming big icebergs.

Women slightly outnumber men in the island's native population of 21,000 (illustrations, cover and inside cover). Peopled at the same ratio per area, New York State would count 1,200 residents; Rhode Island, 26.

NOTE: Greenland is shown on the Society's map of Canada, Alaska & Greenland; and map of The Top of the World.

For additional information, see "Milestones in My Arctic Journeys," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1949; "Americans Stand Guard in Greenland," October, 1946; "Desolate Greenland Now an American Outpost," September, 1941; and "Greenland from 1898 to Now," July, 1940*.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 9, 1946, "Greenland Air Bases Stir Wide Interest."

AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND, OFFICIAL

THIS IS BLUIE WEST-ONE, WAR-BUILT UNITED STATES BASE ON GREENLAND'S SOUTHWEST COAST

The native villagers of Narsarssuak were moved to make room for this vital mid-ocean field. Runways, hangars, barracks, and other installations fill nearly every square foot of the level ground between glacier, fjord, and mountain.

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Bulletin No. 4, May 8, 1950

Proposed Coins Recall U. S. Mint History

ARE Uncle Sam's pockets soon to jingle with 2½- and 7½-cent coins? It all depends on how Congress reacts to pending legislation authorizing the mints to turn out such pieces of small change. Backers of the bill claim the proposed new coins are economically desirable for many reasons, particularly to save consumers the extra half cent they now often pay on fractionally priced items.

Although the suggested pieces would be something of a novelty, they would not be Uncle Sam's first hard money to be circulated at values that now seen odd.

Used George Washington's Silver

The first coinage to come from the United States Mint after its establishment in 1792 included copper half-cent pieces. Turned out in 1793 (and discontinued in 1857), they bore on one side the date and the Goddess of Liberty, and on the reverse the inscription "United States of America" with a wreath of olive branches.

A half dime also was authorized in the original coinage program. According to tradition, the first of these to be minted were made from silver of George Washington's own personal ware.

Among exhibits of the Federal Hall Memorial Museum in New York City is a walking stick ornamented with a silver half dime, said to be the first United States silver coin ever struck. The story is it was minted in the presence of George and Martha Washington, and presented to Mrs. Washington. The half-dime piece was discontinued in 1873.

United States mints also have turned out three-cent and two-cent coins. One three-cent piece, of silver, introduced in 1851, saw wide use until it was discontinued in 1873, after almost 43,000,000 had been minted. Another three-cent coin, of nickel, was issued from 1865 to 1889.

The bronze two-cent piece was authorized during the Civil War. It was withdrawn in 1873. It was the first coin to carry the motto, "In God We Trust."

Twenty-five-year Lifetime

Then there was a short-lived 20-cent silver coin, of which 1,355,000 were issued from 1875 to 1878. Normally, unless Congress takes special action, the minimum life span of a coin of specific design is 25 years.

Over the decades, there have been various official and private proposals that the United States mints make coins of odd amounts and different materials. A 12½-cent piece has been suggested to permit purchase of just one of the two-for-a-quarter articles frequently placed on sale.

A subway company was once reported to have requested an eight-cent coin to use in its turnstiles instead of tokens. Another organization saw convenience in a 2½-cent piece for a not-quite give-away magazine.

During World War II, it was reported that a glass three-cent piece was under consideration to save metal and to meet the unusually high circulation demands due to heavy spending.

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glamorous fame. The "Swedish Nightingale," in 1850 and 1852, gave the first and last concerts of her triumphant American tour within its oval walls. P. T. Barnum was her manager.

Immigration authorities used Fort Clinton from 1855 to 1890. During these years nearly 8,000,000 aliens entered the country through its portals. It was closed for six years after Ellis Island took over immigrant reception. In 1896 it opened as the Aquarium of the City of New York.

It was the Aquarium until 1941. Then plans for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel called for its demolition.

In its Aquarium period, tourist traffic to the old fort was enormous. Some 2,500,000 visitors a year passed beneath the gilded sea horses carved above its entrance. On an average day, the count ran to 7,000; and special events such as holidays or a visit of the fleet brought 50,000 or more to look at the world's most varied collection of fish.

NOTE: Manhattan Island, site of Castle Clinton, is shown on the Society's map of The Reaches of New York City.

For additional information on historic landmarks of the United States, see "Mr. Jefferson's Charlottesville," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1950; "Shrines of Each Patriot's Devotion," January, 1949; "The Mighty Hudson," July, 1948; "Land of the Pilgrims' Pride," August, 1947; "Washington: Home of the Nation's Great," June, 1947; and "Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg," April, 1937; see also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 14, 1949, "Statue of Liberty to Get New Sea Wall"; and "Washington Monument Grounds to Be Changed," October 18, 1948.

PHILIP D. GENDREAU

FRAMED BETWEEN MODERN SKYSCRAPERS, CASTLE CLINTON LOOKS TOWARD LIBERTY AND THE SEA

The oval structure was New York's much-visited Aquarium when this picture was taken. Now the building of a tunnel between the tip of Manhattan and Brooklyn has made a construction shambles of Battery Park in which Castle Clinton stands. The War of 1812 relic itself was all but demolished before aroused citizens campaigned to save it. During the period when it was fitted with tanks to display 10,000 marine creatures, the structure attracted thousands daily. Now the aquarium denizens, ranging from minnows to sea lions, have found a haven off the opposite end of the island, in Bronx Park. The Battery gets its name from the 17th-century British fort that preceded Castle Clinton.

Bulletin No. 5, May 8, 1950

Big Bend National Park Preserves Old West

THE wild primeval west has staked out a man-sized claim for itself at Big Bend National Park, deep in the Lone Star State.

This newest of the country's recreational preserves, due for official dedication in the autumn, almost matches Rhode Island in size. It is named for the loop of the Rio Grande outlining the great scallop of west Texas which dips toward Mexico.

Few Roads or Accommodations

The area is believed to be one of the first in the United States ever traversed by white man. The Spanish conquistador, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, passed this way in 1528. Four centuries later, much of the region remains unexplored.

Except for a few roads and a small cluster of tourist cabins, the dramatic appearance of the reservation has changed little since Cabeza de Vaca's day. The same jagged tops and pinnacles of the Chisos (Ghost) Mountains tower like rough skyscrapers above the flat desert floor, and the sun fires them with shifting colors from dawn until dusk.

The normally low and sluggish waters of the Rio Grande, a silver ribbon when viewed from the Chisos, belie the once awesome might of a river that aeons ago gouged out the spectacular canyons of the park's rugged scenery. One—the Santa Elena (Helena) Canyon—is some 15 miles long and over 1,500 feet in depth (illustration, next page).

Bygone marauders and badmen found the wild and remote character of the region almost ideal for their lawless purposes. The Comanche Indians used the Big Bend country as an escape route after their savage attacks on Mexican haciendas. It served, too, as a hideout and operating base for six-shooter desperadoes who looted banks and mail trains.

Picture-writing on Rocks

Legend has it that the area is dotted with "lost" mines, sealed up by fleeing Spaniards or dying Indians. Prospectors still seek this elusive treasure trove, despite repeated disappointments. Caves, however, have yielded valuable artifacts of the early Texans, the pre-Basket Maker Indians. On the great rocks of the Chisos Mountains are picture writings that may have been made about the time of Christ.

Fossils of clams, some four feet long and three feet wide, and other relics of a prehistoric sea also have been found there, along with remains of dinosaurs.

Upturned mountains, giant cracks in the earth, and rainbow colors on the walls of sheer rock complete the picture of a region battered by nature's every weapon—invading oceans, volcanoes, earthquakes, and endless erosion.

Vegetation is found in four general types. On the desert lowlands where every plant "either sticks, stings, or stinks," grow creosote bush, mesquite, yucca, and cactus. Higher in the mountains piñons and junipers find root. Still higher, there are stands in canyons of ponderosa pine,

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Not only odd amounts, but odd shapes and materials have passed for coins in the world's history (illustration, below). Cattle was probably the first money. Later, peoples developed metal disks, rings, cowrie shells, carved stones, fishhooks, and many other articles to serve as mediums of exchange. The American dollar derives from the "thaler" of *Joachimsthaler*, a coin minted by the Count of Schlick at Joachimsthal ("thal" means "dale"), Bohemia, in 1518.

NOTE: For additional information, see "Pieces of Silver," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1933; and "The Geography of Money," December, 1927.

CHASE NATIONAL BANK COLLECTION.

ANCIENT COINS FROM MANY LANDS SHOW VARIED SIZE AND SHAPE

Almost any of these old coins might serve as modern costume jewelry. The small Siamese coins (upper left) could be the popular "scatter pins." Oriental ring money to their right could be finger rings and bracelet. The hooks (center) served as a medium of exchange in India and Iran. The porous bar at their left was used by 15th-century Russians. Large piece below it is Chinese, and the two ornate bars at the lower right were the legal tender of Laos in French Indochina.

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Douglas fir, and Arizona cypress. Water plants grow along the banks of the Rio Grande.

The collared peccary (javelina) ranges the slopes of the Chisos Mountains. Found only along the Mexican border in the United States, the peccary is related to the wild hog. Mexican black bear and mountain lions are sometimes seen, and deer are abundant.

NOTE: Big Bend National Park may be located on the Society's map of South Central United States.

For additional information on the region, see "The Pink Birds of Texas," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1949; "Carnival in San Antonio," December, 1947; "Yield of Texas," February, 1945*; "Down the Rio Grande," October, 1939; "Texas Delta of an American Nile," January, 1939*; and "So Big Texas," June, 1928; see also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 24, 1947, "Big Bend, Down Mexico Way."

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